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Malarial fever at Alice.

ALICE, TEX., July 28, 1904.

I went to Corpus Christi, remaining there the 27th.

I find a great many cases of malarial fever in Alice, intermittent and remittent in character. None of the cases are considered by the local physicians suspicious.

I saw a case with Doctor Burke last night, a child 4 years of age, who had returned home from Houston two weeks ago, sick with scarlet fever. Present condition: Temperature, 105; pulse, 160; fauces dark and covered with dirty, diphtheritic patches; glands of neck and cellular tissue swollen badly, hard and brawny; diagnosis, malignant scarlet fever. The patient will probably die within twenty-four hours. I advised isolation, disinfection, and fumigation of the house.

There are about 200 tickets sold here daily for points along the new line to Brownsville, and about the same number coming to Corpus Christi every evening, the majority of passengers proceeding north the next morning.

The situation at Alice is improving, but there are still many cases of continued fever.

I found no sickness at Banquete.

There was no change in the situation at San Diego when I left there, July 26. I shall return there from this place, reporting result of an immediate inspection.

Inspection of ranches—Antimosquito work—Conditions at Mier, Mexico—Work at Rio Grande City—Inspection of Camargo.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Cock reports, through Passed Assistant Surgeon Richardson, as follows:

RIO GRANDE CITY, TEX., July 25, 1904.

My first inspection after the date of my last communication was Refugio ranch, on the 16th instant. The estimated population here was 60. Very few water barrels are used and there are singularly few mosquitoes, and no sickness. On the 16th we also inspected Peñaña—estimated population 100—where the same conditions prevailed as at Refugio.

On the 17th we inspected San Pedro, a place of about 200 people. The water supply is mostly by barrels. Mosquitoes are abundant. We distributed antimosquito literature and gave the leading citizens a demonstration in oil work. At this point we found 8 cases of malarial fever, and in one case prognosis bad. This place is between 12 and 15 miles from Mier, Mexico, where I learn yellow fever prevailed in November of last year. Communication between these points is frequent.

On the 18th we reached Roma, a town of about 1,000 population. There is a good class of citizens here. The town is well drained and in good sanitary condition. The water supply is from cisterns, "pilas," barrels, and buckets. A "pila" is a peculiar kind of surface cistern, square, and usually built on a hillside. The few mosquitoes that we found here are *stegomyia*. We inspected 165 houses, 64 barrels; oiled 7 cisterns, 4 ponds, 5 pilas, and 9 barrels. The citizens were much interested in our work and gave us every aid.

On the 19th I visited Mier, Mexico, taking with me a Mexican-American whom I have known for years, and through whom I met General Estrada and Doctor Austen, city physician. We made an inspection of the town in a general way and found sanitary conditions bad. *Stegomyia* are abundant. The population of Mier was formerly 20,000, but it now has only about 5,000.

A small river runs through the town which at the present time stands in pools, affording good breeding places for the mosquitoes.

Doctor Austen served last year in the Victoria epidemic and has had considerable yellow fever experience. He claims that in November of last year Mier was visited by quite an epidemic of yellow fever.

There is seldom any frost in this section, and on account of its nearness to the Rio Grande I regard this place as worthy of close observation. There is but little sickness in Mier at the present time, but Doctor Austen expects much "bilious malaria" later on.

Leaving Roma on the 20th, I inspected Villa Sauz, population, 500; Escobares, population, 300; Garcinano, population, 150; Villareal, about 100. All of these ranches are near the river, and much of the cultivated lands is subirrigated. I learn from the residents of this valley that "bilious malaria" was epidemic last fall, causing quite a number of deaths. Few cases had medical attention.

Arriving at Rio Grande City on the 20th, we were met by Doctor Dashiell, who conducted us to Fort Ringgold, where, through the courtesy of Captain Roach, we are comfortably quartered.

Doctor Dashiell, with assistance furnished by the citizens, is inspecting and oiling daily. The citizens claim that the town is vastly improved from a sanitary standpoint and that much good has been accomplished. Doctor Dashiell had fumigation work laid out for us to do in the four quarters of the town. We fumigated 31 houses, containing 106 rooms, including the barracks of Company M, at Ringgold, fumigated at the request of the commanding officer. I have not as yet been able to meet the post surgeon.

On the 22d, in company with Doctor Dashiell, I inspected Camargo; estimated population, 2,000, formerly 10,000. The San Juan River, a stream of considerable depth, flows through the town. There is no practicing physician here at present. I could not learn of any sickness. The new branch of railroad which will connect Monterey and Matamoras is now grading within 3 miles of Camargo. I hear that men from Tampico are frequently employed. Under present conditions I would respectfully request that Doctor Dashiell be instructed to inspect Camargo and Mier, by way of Roma, now and then.

On account of heavy rains yesterday and to-day we will not be able to leave here until to-morrow morning, en route to Brownsville.

Antimosquito work at Rio Grande City.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Dashiell reports, through Passed Assistant Surgeon Richardson, as follows:

RIO GRANDE CITY, TEX., July 25, 1904.

The work for the prevention of mosquito breeding is still being carried on by the county authorities under my direction.

Upon the arrival of Doctor Cock and his party some demonstration fumigating work was done, report of which was made by Doctor Cock.